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For Immediate Release
December 26, 2007

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**DOWN EAST COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
SETTLES FEDERAL HEALTH CARE BILLING ISSUES**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby today announced a civil settlement with **Down East Community Hospital**, located in Machias, Maine.

The settlement involved improper billings to the Medicare program. As part of the settlement, Down East paid a total of **\$108,276.66** in full satisfaction of any outstanding claims.

The government alleged that from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2005, Down East over-billed Medicare for the cost of transfusions and related goods and services (CPT Code 36430) by billing multiple units when only one unit was appropriate. According to the government, Down East knew or should have known of the improper billings because the problem was identified in internal reviews, but the hospital failed to take the necessary corrective action.

The settlement ends an investigation that was conducted by the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

U.S. Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by all of those involved.